

SB 1345 (Evans)

Commission on the Status of Women

THE GOAL

The goal of this measure is to fund and focus the Commission on the Status of Women on the idea of advising and educating the Governor and the Legislature about the impacts the proposed annual budget has on women.

BACKGROUND

Governor Pat Brown initially established the Commission on the Status of Women as an advisory committee in 1965. The committee was made a permanent commission by the Legislature and Governor Ronald Reagan in 1971.

The commission is an independent voice within state government for California women and girls. The commission serves as an important link between many communities and the government, including working families, incarcerated women, immigrant women, women of color, and those with least access to state government and services.

The commission is an important source of information and data on women and girls for the Legislature, private organizations, individuals, and state and local entities.

The current budget crisis and the economy are having a disparate impact on women and their families, making the work of the commission even more important as the state moves forward.

This economic downturn is the first in recent history in which women experienced substantial job loss. Although there are signs that California's job market is slowly recovering, recent data suggests that women have not shared equally in the state's modest employment gains.

In response to sizeable budget shortfalls, California lawmakers have repeatedly targeted programs that low-income women rely on to support their families, gain the

education and skills they need, find and retain jobs, and remain safely in their own homes as they age.

THIS RESOLUTION

The measure will require the Commission on the Status of Women to advise the Governor and the Legislature on the gender impact of the state's proposed budget. The Commission will report its findings during legislative budget subcommittee hearings.

In order for the Commission to carry out its duties successfully, this measure makes an annual appropriation of \$465,000.

They will continue their role as a clearinghouse of information to women's organizations throughout the State and will retain their ability to hold hearings, make and sign any agreements and perform acts necessary to carry out their purpose.

The Commission will continue to be an appointed Commission and can cooperate with, and secure the cooperation of, any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of the state to facilitate to carry out its duties.

SUPPORT

None received

OPPOSITION

None received.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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